

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract with the following, amended Abstract:

A method and apparatus for injecting medicine from a pre-filled container into a patient through an injection needle. After use, the needle is automatically shielded to prevent inadvertent contact with the needle. The device operates by pumping medicine out of the vial and into a transfer chamber. The medicine is then expelled from the transfer chamber into a patient during an injection stroke. At the end of the injection stroke, the needle is released for retraction, and the spring retracts the needle for shielding. ~~Preferably, the device includes~~ The device can include an injector assembly and a vial holder assembly. The injector assembly has a needle retainer for releasably retaining the needle in a projecting position against the bias of a spring. The vial holder assembly is attachable with the injector assembly and is operable to transfer fluid from the vial and into the transfer chamber for an injection.